Provisioning Server Information

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Provisioning Server Information

The IntelliStar 1 provisioning system relies on four remote servers. Each serves a distinct purpose and must be available during provisioning for the process to complete successfully. What follows is a breakdown of each server, its protocol, credentials, directory structure, and purpose.

SCMT --- scmt.twc.weather.com
Protocol: FTP
Credentials: scmt / scmt
Port: 21 (Passive mode)
This is the primary provisioning server. It serves two purposes: delivering configuration files to the unit during provisioning, and receiving inventory report files uploaded back by the unit after configuration loads.
Config files are fetched during prov_config. The operator enters a Headend ID at the prompt, and the script constructs the FTP path accordingly.
Directory structure:
/scmt-prapp/configs/deploy/<headendId>/config.py
/scmt-prapp/configs/deploy/<headendId>/clocks.tar
/scmt-prapp/configs/exp/<experienceId>/config.py
/scmt-prapp/configs/exp/<experienceId>/clocks.tar
config.py is required for all personalities. clocks.tar is required for Weatherscan units only. Experience IDs use the exp/ path instead of deploy/ and are indicated by an E prefix at the headend ID prompt (e.g. E42).
After the config loads, the personality report script uploads an inventory report back to the same server:
/scmt-prapp/configs/deploy/<headendId>/domestic_istar.dat
/scmt-prapp/configs/deploy/<headendId>/dbs_istar.dat

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/scmt-prapp/configs/deploy/<headendId>/wxscan_istar.dat
Only the report file matching the unit's personality is uploaded. The deploy directory must be writable by the scmt FTP user for this to succeed.
A QA variant of this server existed at scmt-qapp.atl.weather.com, serving configs from /scmt-qapp/configs/ instead. This server was used exclusively for beta and pre-release units during QA testing, primarily at Atlanta-area headends.

starhost --- starhost1.atl.weather.com
Protocol: FTP
Credentials: xlftp / wombat69
Port: 21 (Passive mode)
This server delivers media packs to the unit during prov_fetchmedia. Media packs are custom tarballs containing graphics, audio, mapping data, and other runtime media content installed to /media/ on the unit. They use a different format from standard FreeBSD packages and are managed by the mediapack.py plugin rather than pkg_add.
The script fetches packs from two directories in sequence: first the shared twc/ directory, then the personality-specific directory. Each directory contains a MANIFEST file listing the pack filenames to download.
Directory structure:
/usr/twc/data/media/twc/MANIFEST
/usr/twc/data/media/twc/<pack>.tgz
/usr/twc/data/media/domestic/MANIFEST
/usr/twc/data/media/domestic/<pack>.tgz
/usr/twc/data/media/wxscan/MANIFEST
/usr/twc/data/media/wxscan/<pack>.tgz
/usr/twc/data/media/dbs/MANIFEST
/usr/twc/data/media/dbs/<pack>.tgz

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The MANIFEST file is plain text, one filename per line, no headers or extra formatting. If a personality directory has no unique packs, an empty MANIFEST file should still be present or the script will log a warning.
Each media pack tgz contains a +META file which is a Python script defining three required fields:
name   --- display name of the pack
subdir   --- destination path under /media/
version_file --- version tracking filename
An optional +POST-INSTALL script may also be present and will be executed after installation. Installation is atomic --- the existing directory is renamed to .old before the new content is moved into place, providing a rollback path if the install fails.

bigpimp --- bigpimp.atl.weather.com
Protocol: FTP
Credentials: None (anonymous)
Port: 21 (Passive mode)
This server delivers FreeBSD packages to the unit during prov_fetchmaps. Unlike media packs, these are standard FreeBSD pkg_add compatible tarballs installed system-wide rather than to /media/. They contain the core software, resources, fonts, maps, and libraries required for the unit to operate.
The script fetches the release package for the unit's personality first, reads its +CONTENTS file to build the dependency list, then fetches and installs each dependency before installing the release package itself. Dependencies are checked against /pub/intellistar/ first, then the personality directory as a fallback.
Directory structure:
/pub/intellistar/<package>.tgz
/pub/domestic/<package>.tgz

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/pub/wxscan/<package>.tgz
/pub/dbs/<package>.tgz
The release package name is constructed from the personality:
twc_domestic_release-<version>.tgz
twc_wxscan_release-<version>.tgz
A specific release version can be forced by passing it as an argument to prov_fetchmaps, or by placing the desired package name in /stand/release_package on the unit. If neither is specified, the script uses the default name twc_<personality>_release and installs whatever version is available.
The script will exit and skip installation entirely if the release package is already installed on the unit, making it safe to run multiple times.

starlog --- 65.212.71.50
Protocol: SFTP
Credentials: dgadmin user, RSA key at ~dgadmin/.ssh/starlog_rsa
Port: 22
This server acts as a remote logging and tracking endpoint. Two scripts write to it: callhome and prov_dialguess.
callhome brings up the backchannel, determines the unit's active IP address, and uploads it to:
/logs/callhome/<headendId>.ip
This gives TWC operations visibility into where each unit is and what IP it is reachable at.
prov_dialguess, used only on dialup units, uploads the working dial prefix it discovered to:
/logs/phonenum/<headendId>.phonenum
This allows TWC to track which dial prefix worked for each headend without requiring the operator to manually report it.
Authentication is exclusively via RSA key. The key must be present at ~dgadmin/.ssh/starlog_rsa before either script can connect.

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StrictHostKeyChecking is disabled in the sftp call, so no prior host key acceptance is required.
For a local infrastructure reconstruction, replace 65.212.71.50 in prov_functions with your own SFTP server address and provision a new RSA keypair, placing the public key in the dgadmin account on your server and the private key at the expected path on the unit.

This concludes the provisioning server documentation.

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